and Forests has empowered the State Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan to decide on proposals for environmental clearance under the provisions of Aravalli Notification dated 7th May, 1992 vide Notification S.O. 1189(E) dated 29th November, 1999. As per the provisions of the Notification, the concerned State Governments have constituted Expert Committees for consideration of projects as well as Monitoring Committees to ensure compliance of the environmental safeguards stipulated.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Enquiry Committee, *inter-alia*, to assess the impact of mining activities in Manesar, Haryana. As per the report of the Committee, no mining activity has been reported or observed in Manesar village. However, in the surrounding areas of Gurgaon sub-division, of the 52 mines, 21 mines have been granted permission by the State Government and are in operation, 23 mines are not working either because they have not been granted permission by the State Government or closed by directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter relating to the remaining 8 vacant mines is subjudice.

Godavari Action Plan

2553. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on Godavari Action Plan for the forthcoming Kumbh Mela has started at Nasik in Maharashtra;

(b) the contribution made by Government in this project; and

(c) the details of the project and when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of river Godavari, which is known as the Godavari Action Plan, is being implemented in three towns of Maharashtra namely, Nasik, Trimbakeshwar and Nanded. The action plan was approved by Government in July 1995 under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). The approved cost of works in these towns is Rs. 95.03 crore. Out of this amount, the cost of works for Nasik and Trimabakeshwar towns is Rs. 80.53 crore. Under the plan in Nasik and Trimabakeshwar, sewage shall be intercepted and diverted for treatment in three sewage treatment plants of 78 million litres per day, 22

million litres per day and 1 million litres per day capacities. The scheme also includes other works such as construction of 36 units of low cost toilets, river front development of 8 ghats, 9 units of improved wood crematoria, renovation of 4 ponds, afforestation and public participation & public awareness. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 41.60 crore so far to this project.

The project at Nasik and Trimabakeshwar are targeted for completion by March 2003, before the commencement of ensuing Kumbh Mela.

Protection of natural forest of Andamans

2554. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the action taken to protect the natural forests of Andamans, being exploited by the saw mills?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): The Supreme Court, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 has issued various directions for conservation and protection of natural forests of Andaman & Nicobar Islands which, *inter alia*, include the following:

(a) Ban on felling of trees from the forest of Little Andaman, national parks, sanctuaries and tribal reserves. For other areas, revised working plans will be submitted to the Court.

(b) No felling of trees shall be permitted for meeting any raw material requirement of the plywood, veneer, black board, match sticks or any other wood based industries.

(c) The licences of all the saw mills and wood-based industries shall not be renewed after 31st March, 2003, however, these units are permitted to exhaust the existing stock till 31st March, 2003. Henceforth for meeting the local requirement only the Government saw mills shall operate.

In view of the above directions of Supreme Court, there is no threat to natural forests of Andamans to be exploited by the saw mills.

Conservation of Hussain Sagar Lake

2555. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hussain Sagar Lake at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh has been covered under the National Lake Conservation Plan;